

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /103 W
----- 094760

R 141053Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TELAVIV 1510

E O 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, JO

SUBJ: ISRAELI SETTLEMENT EFFORTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

1. MARCH 14 PRESS CARRIES TWO ARTICLES OF INTEREST RE ISRAELI SETTLEMENT EFFORTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. FIRST ARTICLE STATES THAT FOURTH SETTLEMENT WILL BE ADDED TO ETZION BLOC IN WEST BANK; GROUNDBREAKING IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE AFTER PASSOVER HOLIDAYS. SECOND ARTICLE CARRIES ANNOUNCEMENT BY JEWISH NATIONAL FUND THAT CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST 500 HOUSING UNITS AT RAFAH JUNCTION REGIONAL CENTER IN SINAI WILL BEGIN WITHIN TWO WEEKS. HOUSING WILL BE PREFABRICATED. JNF ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO SAYS THAT WORK WILL BEGIN SHORTLY ON ROAD FROM EIN YAHAV IN THE ARAVA TO SDE BOKER AND TO RAFAH REGIONAL CENTER THEREBY SHORTENING ROAD DISTANCE FROM THE ARAVA TO RAFAH JUNCTION AREA BY 200 KILOMETERS.

2. COMMENT: FOURTH ETZION BLOC SETTLEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE MOSHAV KFAR ETZION GIMMEL, PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED IN MAY 1973. RE RAFAH JUNCTION REGIONAL CENTER, CONSTRUCTION THERE WAS AT STANDSTILL AS LATE AS SIX WEEKS AGO BUT SETTING UP PREFABRICATED HOUSING AT CENTER
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WOULD TAKE RELATIVELY LITTLE TIME TO COMPLETE. SOVIET IMMIGRANTS

PLANNING TO SETTLE AT REGIONAL CENTER HAVE BEEN STANDING BY AT
ADJOINING SETTLEMENTS IN RAFAH JUNCTION AREA AND IN SOUTHERN
NEGEV SINCE BEFORE OCTOBER WAR AND CAN
BE EXPECTED TO MOVE INTO HOUSING UNIT AS SOON AS
IT IS COMPLETED. ASSUMING CONSTRUCTION AT REGIONAL CENTER
GOES AHEAD AS PLANNED, VILLAGE OF 1500-2000 COULD BE ESTABLISHED
WITHIN SIX MONTHS THEREBY ADDING ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING
FACTOR TO SETTLEMENT EFFORTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.
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